

# Earth Week

## A giant garden grows in Seattle

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ

Earth Week's mood is gentle this year. Tree plantings have replaced car smashings and mock funerals.

If the new mood has a symbol in Seattle, it is Mrs. Darlyn Rundberg, 8909 27th Ave. N. E. She will spend the week of the environment starting a giant old-fashioned garden — complete with scarecrows — for the children of her North Seattle neighborhood.

Her purpose: To teach young people the joy of growing things.

And she hopes what is grown will help jobless families. "There are a lot of middle-income families who are really having a hard time now. I think there are a lot of families around here on welfare."

Mrs. Rundberg, 29, soft-spoken and long-haired, is not what most people would call an environmental activist. A University of Washington graduate in interior design, she celebrated last Earth Day by riding a bicycle to the architecture firm where she worked and talking over the natural aspects of a site they were working on.

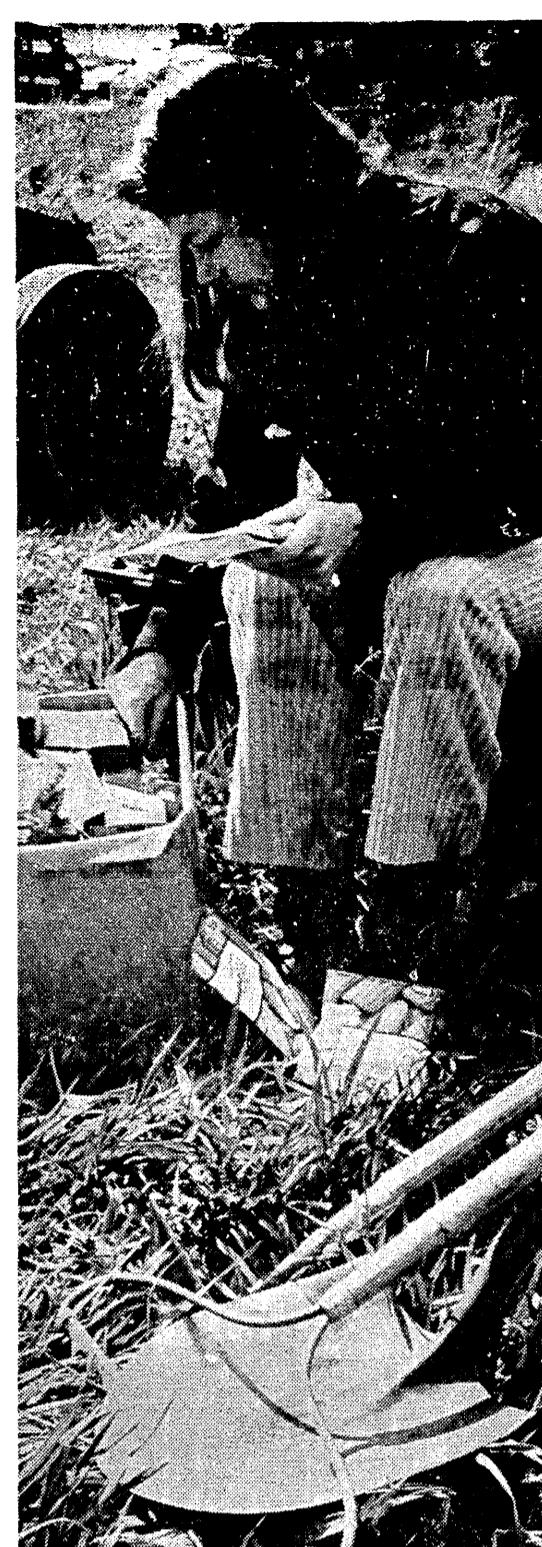
She is a person who likes to grow things. She grew up with home-grown vegetables. "My father always put in a pretty big garden."

**SHE AND HER** husband built much of their furniture. She keeps a loom in her living room, two ducks and a Damatian in her yard.

The garden dream started when she read a book by Helen and Scott Nearing about close-to-the-earth life on their Vermont maple-sugar farm.

"It was really a gray December day. And I really turned on to it."

A few blocks from her house lay an old truck farm overrun with high grass. The old farm, at 25th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 80th Street, has damp, shakily peat soil that discouraged building as houses grew around it.



She called the owner and got permission to use two acres. "I called him up and said, 'I've got an idea, how do you like it?' And he liked it fine," she said.

More telephone calls produced enough seeds to plant one acre — donated by the Charles H. Lilly, Co. — insurance, an offer of tractor plowing, volunteers (including college students who will get credit for the work) — even old work shirts to put on the scarecrows.

The plowing is to be done this week.

**THE NEXT** need is for children who want to garden. Mrs. Rundberg said she isn't worried about finding them. The area is full of youngsters.

And she added: "You know, kids won't have as much money this year to spend on their activities. They're going to be looking for things that won't cost as much."

Mrs. Rundberg estimated the "P Patch," as she calls it, will have room for 250 young people aged 8 through 17. Each will need parental permission (for insurance reasons) and his own tools.

The young gardeners will work in an acre-size common garden and plant whatever they want in their own patches. What they do with the common crop will be up to them, Mrs. Rundberg said. Some possibilities might be a roadside stand or distribution to needy families.

She has made one rule: No chemical fertilizers or pesticides allowed. Why does she want to promote organic gardening?

"I'M JUST tired of eating junk. Nothing at the store tastes like anything. You can't get the stuff off the apples. The F. D. A. (Federal Food and Drug Administration) keeps questioning things. It makes you wonder."

The P Patch does have a few more needs, Mrs. Rundberg said: Plastic tarps, things like leaves, grass clippings and ashes for mulch and compost.

And she would like to interest some of the neighborhood's retired people in the P Patch.

"All our volunteers so far are young. I'd like to get

Mrs. Darlyn Rundberg mused on what could grow in the giant children's garden she hopes to begin this year.—Staff photo by Pete Liddell.

some older people because they have experience with gardening. And also I think they'd enjoy it," she said.

Parking is available across Lake Washington Boulevard

## Tri-Cities spokesman offers economic ideas

By SHELBY GILJE

Tri-Cities industrialists don't want "handouts," they want to save the federal government millions of dollars by efficient use of existing facilities at Hanford.

That was the meat of the message of Sam Volpentest this week to the subcommittee on economic development of the Senate's Committee on Public Works.

Volpentest, executive vice president of the Tri-City Nuclear Industrial Council of Pasco, Kennewick and Richland, criticized the federal government for closing big installations "at will and without apparent regard for the economic crisis which its actions caused."

**VOLPENTEST'S** testimony was among the most impressive during the two-day hearings. He came armed with thoughtful proposals on diverse projects such as a nuclear museum and a recycling and waste-management effort.

While some speakers simply reiterated the unhappy statistics of unemployment, Volpentest offered plans.

He asked the committee's help in establishing a national environmental research laboratory at Hanford "to make use of the expertise and data accumulated over the past 25 years."

Senator Howard Baker, Tennessee Republican, agreed that a National Environmental Laboratory

"will fit perfectly at Hanford." Baker and Senator Edmund Muskie, Maine Democrat, have co-sponsored a bill for four such laboratories in the nation.

Volpentest also asked for aid in luring the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor demonstration program at Hanford. The Atomic Energy Commission will award the contract this year. The demonstration plant is essential to the solution of clean-power needs, Volpentest said.

**THE AREA** needs help, too, in construction of its segment of Interstate 82 to serve industry and tourism.

Volpentest urged that the A. E. C. lower the price tag on available land in the proposed Nuclear Industrial Park. The A. E. C. has said it must receive fair market value or fair rental value.

Volpentest suggested "prices similar to those which the government paid for the land initially with public funds."

**AN EXISTING** rail-shop maintenance and repair facility at Hanford could be used in the research and development of a new form of mass transportation, he said.

Volpentest also suggested a project involving research with warm water from a power plant to see if it could be used for indoor horticulture, aquaculture and the heating of enclosed cities.

He recommended that public funds be used to con-

struct a Hanford National Museum of Natural Science and Nuclear Technology. He said it would be a tourist attraction as well as a means of education on the benefits of nuclear energy.

The council's final suggestion was the establishment of a National Industrial Waste Recycle, Recovery and Waste Management facility.

The facility would provide a place where industrial wastes could be shipped, chemicals and metals recovered to conserve natural resources, and the final residue consolidated and placed in a safe repository.

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### First Bicycle Sunday of the year scheduled

The fourth annual Bicycle Sunday program begins next Sunday.

Lake Washington Boulevard south from Mount Baker Park to Seward Park and the Seward Park Loop Road will be closed to automobile traffic from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. so bicycle riders may use the route.

Parking is available across Lake Washington Boulevard

## Conservation fete to honor ongoing projects

The nation's second Earth Week should emphasize continuing projects, the conservation celebration's Washington, D. C., coordinating committee has said.

In Seattle, planned events seem to be leaning toward a combination Arbor Day and spring festival.

Starting at 2 p. m. today, visitors are invited to Earthstation 7, the refurbished Capitol Hill firehouse that now houses the Environmental Works, a many-sided conservation and planning group. Although today's displays mark the official opening, the group has been using the old firehouse for some time.

Displays are to include a Stanley Steamer auto.

Friday night, a rock concert at the Eagles Auditorium will benefit Earthstation 7. Saturday afternoon, environmental films and a puppet show at the Movie House, Northwest 50th Street and University Way Northeast also will benefit the refurbished firehouse.

A mass bike ride from the Museum of History and Industry to Pioneer Square is planned for 1 p. m. Saturday. The aim: to encourage

non-smog-producing vehicles. The ride will end with a speech on the Pioneer Square Association's hopes for the Pioneer Square Historic District. A stop at Pike Place Market for a speech by Friends of the Market is a possibility.

Capitol Hill residents plan to mark their continuing battle with Safeway Stores with a cleanup, plant-in, picnic and dance Saturday at "Voluntary Park," the corner where they don't want Safeway to put a parking lot.

AND IN West Seattle, citizens are invited to help plant more than 2,000 tiny trees at 9 a. m. Saturday at Puget Park to dramatize desire for a trail system along Pigeon Ridge.

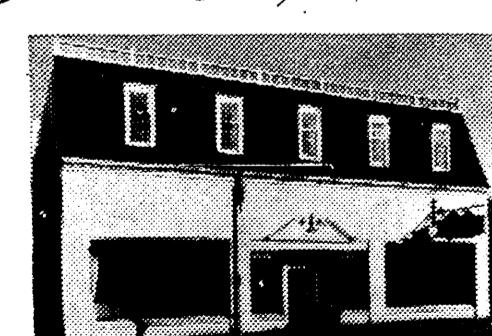
Next Sunday, the year's first Bicycle Sunday at Seward Park, also will see picnicking, live music and environmental exhibits at the park in an Earth Festival and Environmental Fair.

Walter J. Hickel, former secretary of the interior, will speak in Seattle Wednesday night at a dinner sponsored by the Republican Ripon Society. He will speak at 7:30 p. m. April 26 at Green River Community College.

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